

SnapShot



944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

September 2017 Newsletter



944 SFS recognized for their global approach to teamwork

Smoky Mountain Medical IRT provides care to 5,800 citizens

Chapel team recognized with double awards

Air Force cracks down on misuse of prescription drugs

944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. Bryan E. Cook

Vice Commander

Col. Robert R. Tofil

Command Chief

CMSgt. Jeremy N. Malcom

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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SnapShot Editorial Staff

Commander

Col. Bryan E. Cook

Chief, Public Affairs

Maj. Elizabeth Magnusson

Operations Chief, PA

Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Photojournalists, PA

Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson

Tech. Sgt. Michael Lahrman

Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz

Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder



Snapshot

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Bringing the Heat

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Cover Photo: Lt. Col. Trena Savageau, 69 Fighter Squadron, runs through drills with from the Arizona Cardinals coaching team. Savageau was part of a 944th Fighter Wing team that participated in a on-field NFL -style "Boot Camp" hosted by the Arizona Cardinals and USAA. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Above: Lt. Col. Ryan Savageau, Tech. Sgt. David Martin, Lt. Col. Trena Savageau and Senior Airman Shem Bowman pose for a picture after spending the morning at "Boot Camp". The NFL and USAA sponsored event pitted Air Force, Navy and Mariens against each other in a friendly football drill challenge. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega)

Left: Senior Airman Shem Bowman, 944th Medical Squadron optometry technician, participates in a vertical jump drill August 14 during an event with the Arizona Cardinals in partnership with USAA at the University of Phoenix stadium in Glendale, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Effectiveness translates to readiness



By Col. Bryan Cook, 944th Fighter Wing commander

Welcome to the September UTA, and what a great weekend we are going to have. This month we get to showcase the 944th Fighter Wing and our outstanding Airmen to the Air Force Reserve Command command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Ericka Kelly, who happens to be a former member of the 944 FW. Many of you will have an opportunity to talk directly with our Command Chief, this is your opportunity to get an inside look into the future of AFRC and how it

will affect the 944 FW. Please take a moment and tell your story.

Over the past three months I've been telling you about our wing priorities and focus efforts. Our priorities; Readiness, Developing Airmen and improving our Total Force Enterprise. An easy acronym to remember is, RDT - readiness, developing and total force. Please take a moment to think about our priorities and what you are doing to meet these to both improve yourself and our wing.

Our focus efforts, those things that we value and take into account while we are achieving our priorities; Family, Heritage, and Leadership. While we are always striving for the priorities, we never forget those things that we value and are important not only to our wing, but to us individually as Airmen. These efforts are the things that we take into account and value every day whether we are in uniform or not. These are the efforts that focus us on our mission and drive us towards our vision while maintaining our moral compass in balancing our life.

Speaking of mission and vision, in September the senior leadership team is

getting together to reassess our vision and mission statements. We will have this out for you later in the month, and we will have UTA cards available for everyone in October. This will cement the future direction of the wing and become an enabler to better focus our annual training to ready us for the next fight.

In October we have our much anticipated Unit Effectiveness Inspection. This is an opportunity for us to show AFRC how well we perform our mission while maintaining compliance with the AFIs. This is what we do every day in every mission in every squadron, and we don't prepare for it. We are always in compliance, and when we are not, we self-identify it and determine a path to correct it. I fully expect the team to identify areas that we need to focus on, that is their job. We will take those inputs and findings, and if they are achievable, then we will re-focus our efforts. If they are not, then we will put 'em in the freezer and get there when we can.

This is not the traditional inspection of the old days, and it is not a test. It is an evaluation of our ability to inspect ourselves on the four Major Graded Areas. Managing Resources, Leading People, Improving the

Unit and Executing the Mission. If you look at our Wing priorities and focus efforts, they all tie directly into the four MGAs. The UEI team will take a look at how well we are meeting our priorities at a squadron, group and wing level. This will determine if we are effective at meeting our mission. Effectiveness translates to readiness, which is our first priority. The UEI is a good thing for us all, please embrace it as we approach it next month.

One last thing, on September 28 and 29 the 56 FW is holding its' annual Thunderbolt Cup. This event should be an exciting competition with numerous activities and games planned. There will definitely be something for everyone, from a corn-hole tournament to mini iron man competitions.

I would love to see a large 944 FW participation, and would really love to see the 944 FW take home some trophies! If you are interested in participating, please get with your supervisors and commanders for more information and sign-up.

Have a meaningful and productive UTA weekend, I will see you at the all-call on Saturday with Lt Gen Miller, and if you get a chance, please engage with her and Chief Kelly. Be safe and take care of each other.

Enlisted professional military education for the 21st century

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Malcom 944th Fighter Wing command chief

Welcome to our September UTA everyone! Many of you have heard of the new Enlisted Professional Military Education for the 21st Century that was rolled out by the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force in July. This program is in place to help promote the classroom learning environment where you can share ideas and topics with your fellow airmen. Many of the Distance Learning courses you take are centered on teaching you a topic, not necessarily giving you a chance to interact with others about that topic.

Most of the questions we got right off the bat were whether or not the "mandatory" in residence courses pertained to the Reserve. Per AFI 36-2502, Enlisted Airman Promotion and Demotion Programs, Reserve members are eligible for promotion upon completion of their applicable DL component. Simply put, you can still do the DL course and move on with your career (Staff Sgt.-ALS, Master Sgt.-NCOA, and Senior Master Sgt.-SNCOA).

I have personally found that attending the resident PME course will give you a greater appreciation for the content of the material taught. I would like to encourage all of our members to attend the resident course if it works with your schedule, keeping in mind that the DL component is still a prerequisite for attendance of NCOA and SNCOA. Many of you have demanding civilian jobs that don't always allow for additional time spent in uniform. That is the beauty of the EPME 21 program, you still have the option.

The 944 FW has many opportunities for career progression. Continue to pursue your own career goals by taking advantage of the PME opportunities the Air Force offers.



Warrior of the Month



Tech. Sgt. Charles Gonzalez (left), 944th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Time in Service: 13 years

Time with the 944th Fighter Wing: Two years

Civilian Job: Air Reserve Technician, F-16/F-35 Loading Standardization Crew Member

Hometown: El Paso, Texas

Hobbies: Hiking, hanging out with friends, Goodwill shopping with my husband Ray

Home-life: BBQ and poolside every weekend, entertaining guests, playing with our two dogs

Commander's comments: Tech. Sgt. Charles Gonzalez led and executed memorials celebrating the lives of two 56 AMXS weapons troops who passed away. He provided comfort and closure to over 300 Airmen and family members. He also headed a short notice bomb line load tasking facilitating the first ever UTA load of four aircrafts with GBU-12s. Gonzalez shows outstanding initiative. He authored and instituted three policy letters for 944th Weapons Load Team, solidifying headquarters reporting, awards and timecard process for over 25 loaders. **Why did you join the Air Force Reserves?** I transitioned from Active Duty in 2010 so that I could go to school and change career fields. After two years of being a Knowledge Operations Manager I returned back to my primary AFSC and haven't looked back. The Reserve has been the best choice I have made in my Air Force career.

How does your job support the mission of the 944th Fighter Wing? My job is integral in conducting weapons load crew evaluations to ensure Active Duty and Reserve personnel met all loading certification to enhance the fighter pilot training program at Luke AFB.

If you were on a deserted island.....? I would probably die because I don't know how to fish without a supermarket.

Change

From Dr. Julie Reese, 944th Fighter Wing director of psychological health

Welcome fall! September simulates change in our season; ushering out the old and bringing in the new. Fall brings about beautiful colors and renewed faith in the beauty of our environments. This change also invokes the passing of what was allowing us to ponder and embrace new beginnings, as these beautiful colors prepare the organism for even more change ahead.

"The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance." Nathaniel Branden

As Airmen, change is constant and often requires immediate transitions with limited flexibility. When thinking about change, understand that often times, doors close so others can open. This means that with the passing of a deployment, situation, relationship, opportunity, etc., new beauty will surface in time. Remaining focused, physically and emotionally fit, and confident will support healthy transitions and newly found beginnings. While the universe works to shift and change our environments to support earthly harmony, our worlds also shift and change, and if we allow ourselves to embrace the uncertainty, we can also experience harmony in our lives.



September 2017 promotions: Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman:

Airman First Class Marlen Cherop, 944 MDS
Airman First Class Micaela Howze, 944 MXS
Airman First Class Alberto Sanchez, 924 MXS

From Airman First Class:

Senior Airman Turner Albro, 414 MXS
Senior Airman Desiree Araujo, 944 ASTS
Senior Airman Jessica Daniels, 924 MXS
Senior Airman Kristy Riley, 924 MXS
Senior Airman Ian Timbreza, 924 MXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sgt. Shaun Brown, 944 MXS
Staff Sgt. Christopher Cole, 944 CES
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Daniels, 414 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Ashley Featherston, 944 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Michael Grill, 944 CES
Staff Sgt. Andrew Martin, 944 AMXS
Staff Sgt. John Ortiz, 944 MXS
Staff Sgt. Joseph Peck, 944 CES

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Dante Henderson, 944 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Drew Jennings, 944 AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Patrick Martin, 414 MXS
Tech. Sgt. John Robinson, 944 AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Gilberto Saucedo, 924 OSF

Congratulations to 944th Fighter Wing's Stripes for Exceptional Performers II

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. David Menotti, 944 CES
Tech. Sgt. Ashley Oviatt, 944 LRS

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sgt. Karol Gaona, 944 FW
Master Sgt. Sara Lackey, 944 MSG

944 SFS recognized for their global approach to teamwork

By Senior Airman Alexandria Slade, 926th Wing Public Affairs



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Plante

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- The Airmen of the 944th Security Forces Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, were recently recognized as the Air Force Reserve Command Security Forces Squadron of 2016 following a year of diligent training and support to joint forces across the globe.

Ranging from filling in needed manpower positions to staying updated on weapons and combat training, the mission of the 944 SFS stays the same: to train and deploy as defenders of Air Force installations and personnel.

“I feel very humble about our unit receiving this award, but our success is due to the ingenuity, hard work, determination and leadership of the Airmen in this unit,” said Lt. Col. Amy Evans, 944 SFS commander. “This is an amazing group of professionals full of diversity and a wealth of experience in their fields, from our full time members, to our chief, to our technical sergeants pulling more than their own weight and leading our hardworking new and younger troops to become the leaders of tomorrow.”

Aside from monthly and annual required training and security duties within their unit, 944 SFS team members volunteered to fill the gaps in manpower in other countries across the

world, as well as active duty needs at Luke AFB.

“It’s not just about making sure you’re ready to deploy,” said Evans. “It’s about being ready to step in to support your teammates and their family members, even if they are thousands of miles away. Our goal when we go on an assignment elsewhere is to eventually be invited back. We aim to be good guests who leave more than we take away and that work ethic is noticeable.”

While it takes the effort of each individual working together to succeed as a unit, according to Tech. Sgt. Alex Goreski, 944 SFS fire team member, said receiving this award emphasizes how essential teamwork is to the big picture.

“It’s amazing that out of all the Air Force Reserve tenant units out there, we get to call ourselves the best,” said Goreski. “Hitting a goal like this takes a group of individuals with the right attitudes and innovation each day, but what makes winning this type of award special is that this isn’t to applaud an individual and their singular efforts, this is a unit level award. The reason we’re here is because of the combined efforts of everyone in the 944 SFS to fulfill the mission of the unit and especially how that mission ties into the overall mission of the Air Force.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Smoky Mountain Medical IRT provides care to 5,800 citizens

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. John Wilkes

HAYESVILLE, N.C., - More than 200 U.S. Navy, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Army Reserve service members deployed to Hayesville and Bryson City for Smoky Mountain Medical Innovative Readiness Training, Aug. 2-10, 2017.

The two-week event brought together service members from various branches into a joint environment to provide medical, dental, ophthalmologic and veterinary services to more than 5,800 residents of Clay County, Swain County and the surrounding areas. These services included basic medical and wellness exams, optical exams and prescription eyeglasses, dental exams, extractions and fillings among others.

In addition, hundreds of people from surrounding communities volunteered their time to assist during the mission.

“Smoky Mountain Medical is bringing additional resources into our community to help those we don’t have the resources to reach,” said Janice Patterson, Clay County health director. “We have a lot of self-employed and small business employers who do not offer healthcare benefits. Unlike what many people think, the uninsured are most often employed hard working people who just can’t afford health insurance or they have a really high insurance deductible they can only meet if they have a major healthcare event with hospitalization.”

Hundreds of community members began lining up outside as early as 4 a.m. on Aug. 2 at Swain County and Hayesville High Schools in an effort to receive much needed medical services. As word of the event spread, people lined up overnight in hopes of beating the line.

Throughout the event, service members treated an average of more than 600 patients per day. Doors opened at 8 a.m. each day, where numbers were issued to patients on a first-come, first-served basis. In the waiting areas, service members assisted patients with filling out paperwork in preparation for being seen by a provider.

According to the Swain County Health Department, transportation availability and cost are the primary barriers to care in this region.

“[Smoky Mountain Medical provides] an opportunity for community members to receive medical, dental and visual care when they don’t have the insurance or extra money to afford these services,” Patterson said. “Many people live paycheck to paycheck.”

Dental care was in high demand at both locations during Smoky Mountain Medical IRT. Dental professionals provided a range of services including cleanings, tooth fillings, and extractions as well as evaluations and referrals if necessary.

“Health care is very expensive, I have three children,” said Ashley Riddle, a resident of Robbinsville, North Carolina, who visited the dental and vision clinic. “My husband is the only one working because I am going to school fulltime. It is very helpful that I am able to receive these services.”

Senior Airman Delaney Preston, a medic with the 180FW, recalled an encounter she had in which the family was very grateful. “Some children didn’t have shoes or any clothes to wear but a diaper,” said Preston. “It’s a reality that exists. I feel like I am doing something good and bringing happiness into the community.”

U.S. Air Force, Army and Naval optometrists provided more than 5,900 vision screenings and optical exams to patients resulting in more than 1,200 pairs of eyeglasses being produced.

“I am very thankful that the service members are able to help everybody, not many people get this option,” said Riddle.

Prior to visiting the vision clinic, Riddle was not aware she needed glasses.

Naval Ophthalmic Support & Training Activity, also known as NOSTRA, service members were on hand to produce prescription lenses on-site allowing patients to receive their glasses at no cost within 24 to 48 hours.

The training value for IRT missions is high. During Smoky Mountain Medical, service members completed more than 24,500 hours of training. In addition, IRT missions provide realistic training

in austere environments while also providing a direct and lasting benefit to our communities. *Story continued on page 8...*



Master Sgt. Kristie Bluemer, 944th Medical Squadron dental assistant, Luke Air Force Base Ariz., cleans a patients teeth during Smoky Mountain Medical Innovative Readiness Training in Hayesville, N.C., on Aug 2.

Chapel team recognized with double awards

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- There's a special team of Luke AFB Airmen committed to ensuring everyone's spiritual needs are met, fulfilling one of the pillars of Comprehensive Airman Fitness.

Now, that team has earned recognition at the major command level for their selfless work.

The four-member team comprising the 944th Fighter Wing chapel staff recently earned two out of a possible three Air Force Reserve Command Chaplain Corps Awards for 2016: the Readiness Award and the Outstanding Chaplain Corps Program Award.

"I had high hopes for earning just one award this year, so I was shocked when I heard we earned two," said Tech. Sgt. Elliot Denney, 944 FW chaplain assistant.

For the Readiness Award, the team was recognized for organizing the Fighter Wing Staff Agencies Wingman Day, ensuring the unit met the training requirement for suicide prevention training. The chapel staff also led two Yellow Ribbon events by facilitating training for approximately 1,000 Reservist and their family members. Additionally, they collaborated with a Navy tenant unit to provide spiritual care for approximately 400 Marines.

The AFRC Outstanding Chaplain Corps Program Award was given to the Luke team for their tireless efforts both on and off base. The chapel staff designed a family retreat, impacting the lives of 60 Citizen Airmen and their families and provided spiritual care to Airmen with the 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron during their annual tour. The chapel team also implemented a Native American scholarship program, helping to raise \$20,000 and enabling more than 80 students to attend a youth camp for the first time.

Chaplain (Capt.) David Kreis, 944 FW chaplain, crafted the award packages sent to MAJCOM and gave credit to Chaplain (Capt.) Matt Wilson, 944 FW chaplain, and their pair of chaplain assistants.

"It's not just what we do for the unit but also the local community activities, especially the volunteer work of Chaplain Wilson and Staff Sgt. Brianna Creveling," said Kreis. "We already had all the bullets, so I didn't really have to do a whole lot. I just needed to organize them and send them in."

Denney, who recently returned from a six-month deployment, gives credit to Kreis for enabling him to perform backfills around the world.

"Chaplain Kreis enables us to do what we do, to go on these backfills, etc.," Denney said. "If it wasn't for his flexibility and accommodating attitude, we couldn't have done these things and earned these awards. He enables the action."

Denney added that while the awards are never the team's main objective, earning them "validates the work we do."

Many colleagues in the chaplain community reached out to congratulate Luke's chapel team, but the first one stood out for Kreis.

"Chaplain (Maj) Todd Harder, Peterson AFB wing chaplain, was the first one who texted congratulations to me," Kreis said. "He was my mentor and trainer when we were together at Offutt AFB. When he texted me to say congratulations, I replied 'I only won because you trained me.'"

Kreis expressed that he is also indebted to 944 FW leaders for their support in his team's work.

"Our wing leaders allow us to do so much more than other traditional reserve wings," said Kreis. "They appreciate our work and what we do for the wing, so they always make sure we get the extra funding to do things for our teammates. It's the spirit of the entire wing that enables us to do what we do."



BRINGING THE HEAT

944 FIGHTER WING

Air Force cracks down on misuse of prescription drugs

By Capt. Amanda Reeves, Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.- In an effort to combat substance abuse and maintain accountability of its forces, the Air Force is cracking down on the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs.

Prescription drug misuse is considered any use of a prescription outside of its originally prescribed mandate and time frame. This includes obvious abuse, like using prescription drugs to obtain a high, but also includes using an old prescription to treat a new medical illness or using a prescription beyond its expiration date.

On June 22, in the case of United States v. Airman First Class Austin J. Mull, the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals overturned precedent set in 1993 and ruled prescription drug misuse constitutes abuse of a controlled substance in violation of Article 112A of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In other words, prescription drug misuse and abuse is considered the same category of offense as the use of any other controlled substance, such as narcotics.

The USAF has made it clear, there is zero tolerance on prescription drug abuse and has recently revised its own disciplinary regulations, particularly affecting the officer corps. If any disciplinary action is completed against an officer for drug abuse, including misuse of prescriptions, separation actions will be initiated. The update to Air Force Instruction 36-3206, Administrative Discharge Procedures for Commissioned Officers, further explains that there is no time limitation on separation actions, and the separation will be valid unless a waiver is actively sought and approved.

Officer retirements can also be adversely affected: Any officer applying for retirement who has received non-judicial punishment in the previous four years will automatically go up for an Officer Grade Determination Board.

These regulation changes reflect the sentiment that prescription drug abuse undermines the good order and discipline of the Air Force. The changes also hold officers to the same standard already in place for enlisted members.

In the military, drug misuse is often identified through random urinalysis screenings. When a member tests positive for a drug not identified in their military records, the member's commander is required to initiate an investigation, not only creating a stressful event for the member, but also straining the unit's and the base's resources.

To avoid accidental misuse, military members should treat every prescription as a controlled substance. Once prescriptions have served their purpose and/or expired, people should dispose of them immediately to avoid confusion or temptation.

Reserve Citizen Airmen are also required to submit prescriptions from their civilian providers into their military



records. This ensures consistency in their records if reservists are selected for a random urinalysis.

Reservists who have questions about a prescription's validity should contact their medical provider or servicing Drug Demand Reduction Office.

Smoky Mountain Medical story continued from page 6... Throughout the two-week event, military health care providers treated more than 5,800 patients and conducted more than 14,500 medical and dental procedures and exams. Veterinarians performed more than 1,300 neuter and spay procedures, vaccinations and exams. These services resulted in more than \$1,000,000 in care provided.

"Smoky Mountain Medical provided a great two weeks of training while assisting fellow Americans," said Lt. Col. Gary Easterly, medical planner at the 180th FW and officer-in-charge of Smoky Mountain Medical IRT. "Smoky Mountain Medical IRT is not only beneficial to the people that receive health care, but it fulfills necessary training requirements and increases readiness amongst our health professionals."

The IRT is a civil-military program which builds mutually beneficial partnerships between U.S. communities and the Department of Defense to meet training and readiness requirements for active, reserve and National Guard service members and units while addressing public and society needs.

"It is great to see our airmen working side-by-side with other military personnel to help our own," said Col. Kevin Doyle, commander of the 180th FW. "Their efforts have helped those who are unable to afford health care for themselves and their children, greatly improving their quality of life."

DoD

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Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 414th Fighter Group at Seymour Johnson North Carolina, pose for a photo August 5. Courtesy Photo